



April 11, 2018

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 946 (Lara) Sidewalk Vending - OPPOSE

Dear Senator McGuire,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) strongly opposes Senate Bill 946 (Lara), which would prohibit cities from adopting rules or regulations related to sidewalk vending without first implementing a licensing program. Should a city choose to adopt a sidewalk vending program, this bill would prohibit establishing designated street vending locations and prevent cities from including a requirement that vendors gain permission to do business from the adjacent brick-and-mortar store.

Over the years, VICA has worked with the Los Angeles City Council to create sensible solutions for street vending that does not interfere with traditional brick-and-mortar businesses. Our vision for a street vending policy includes limiting the number of vending permits issued; designating zones for sidewalk vending; requiring the consent of brick-and-mortar businesses; and ensuring sidewalk vendors pay their fair share in taxes and fees.

Requiring vendors to receive consent from brick-and-mortar businesses along with creating designated vending locations will appropriately limit the number of vendors and prevent a disproportionate concentration of street vendors in certain communities. Limiting the number of licenses will allow cities to ensure public safety, protect neighborhood character, and protect access to businesses. A cap on the number of vendors will also help cities regulate street vendors more efficiently.

Small businesses across the state, especially the San Fernando Valley will be significantly impacted by this bill. Business owners will have no choice but to compete with vendors who station themselves outside their storefront.

An appropriate method of enforcement is necessary for street vending licensing programs. This bill will undermine local control by disallowing them to create an efficient sidewalk policy that works best for their city.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose SB 946.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gritzner
VICA Chair

Stuart Waldman
VICA President

CC: The Honorable Ricardo Lara; Members, Committee on Governance and Finance, California State Senate